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COMMISSION ON HUMAN RIGHTS
Sub-Commission on Prevention
of Discrimination and
Protection of Minorities
Forty-seventh session
Agenda item 4

REVIEW OF FURTHER DEVELOPMENTS IN FIELDS WITH WHICH THE SUB-COMMISSION HAS BEEN CONCERNED

Mr. Bengoa, Mr. Genot, Ms. Koufa, Mr. Eide, Ms. Forero Ucros, Mr. Guissé, Mr. Joinet, Mr. Khalifa, Ms. Palley and Ms. Warzazi: draft resolution

1995/... Injurious effects of anti-personnel land-mines

The Sub-Commission on Prevention of Discrimination and Protection of Minorities,

Guided by the Charter of the United Nations, the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, the Geneva Conventions of 12 August 1949 relative to the protection of war victims and the 1977 Additional Protocols thereto,

Guided also by the 1980 Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects, and in particular by the Protocol on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Mines, Boobytraps and Other Devices (Protocol II),

Reaffirming the principles set out in the Convention on the Rights of the Child,

Subscribing to the spirit of paragraph 6 of United Nations General Assembly resolution 49/75 D of 15 December 1994, in which the Assembly encourages further international efforts to seek solutions to the problems caused by anti-personnel land-mines, with a view to the eventual elimination of such devices,

Endorsing the appeal launched by the Secretary-General of the United Nations at the International Meeting on Mine Clearance, held in Geneva from 5 to 7 July 1995, to prohibit the manufacture and use of anti-personnel land-mines,

Taking note with satisfaction of the declaration adopted on 23 June 1995 by the Council of Ministers of the Organization of African Unity in support of a total ban on the production and use of anti-personnel mines,

Also taking note with satisfaction of the resolution on respect for international humanitarian law and support for humanitarian action during armed conflicts, adopted by the General Assembly of the Organization of American States at its twenty-fourth session, held in Belem (Brazil) from 6 to 11 June 1994,

Bearing in mind the preparatory process for the conference to review the 1980 Convention, which will be held in Vienna from 25 September to 13 October 1995,

Taking into account the grave danger that such mines pose to the lives of civilians and children, particularly during and after the cessation of an armed conflict, which is a violation of the right to life and to security of person,

Taking into account also the risk that such mines pose to other vulnerable groups, particularly peasants and indigenous people,

Taking into account the serious handicaps caused by mines and the need for remedial action both through prevention and through rehabilitation and respect for the rights of the disabled,

Noting with concern the large number - at least 100 million - of anti-personnel land-mines already laid and the additional number of mines laid every year, which is unfortunately steadily increasing,

Concerned about the harmful repercussions of anti-personnel mines on the all-round development of persons who are victims of them,

Expressing the hope that United Nations action in favour of mine clearance will in the near future result in the total and final elimination of the scourge of unexploded land-mines,

Regretting the scant funds available to improve mine-clearance techniques and step up rehabilitation programmes for the victims of anti-personnel mines,

Noting that there is an urgent need to adopt effective measures at national, regional and international level to protect civilians, particularly children and other vulnerable groups, against the effects of anti-personnel mines,

1. Declares itself gravely concerned about the maiming effects of anti-personnel mines;

2. Urges States that have not yet done so to sign and ratify the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons and the Protocols thereto;

3. Requests Governments and the international community to pursue a policy of information, prevention, rehabilitation and reintegration for the victims of anti-personnel mines, particularly children, and to take the economic and social measures considered necessary for that purpose;

4. Calls on States to take an active part in the conference to review the 1980 Convention, which will be held in Vienna from 25 September to 13 October 1995, with a view to effectively strengthening that instrument and giving it universal scope;

5. Encourages all Governments, organizations and individuals that can do so to respond favourably to the requests for voluntary contributions to the United Nations mine-clearance programme, if possible on a regular basis;

6. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit to all Governments the Sub-Commission's appeal for voluntary contributions to the mine-clearance programme and to the Voluntary Trust Fund for Assistance in Mine Clearance established in November 1994;

7. Declares itself in favour of a total ban on the production, marketing and use of anti-personnel land-mines;

8. Requests the Secretary-General to transmit this resolution to the conference to review the 1980 Convention, shortly to be held in Vienna;

9. Decides to consider this question at its forty-eighth session under agenda item 13 in order to ensure the necessary follow-up within the framework of the full enjoyment of human rights and the strengthening of international humanitarian law.